BULLETIN OF THE GOVERNMENT MUSEUM, CHENNAI

Edited by the Commissioner of Museums

Catalogue of Jain Sculptures in the Collection of Government Museum, Chennai

CHAUMUKH
Danavulapadu Cuddappah Dt. About 10th C A.D.

By

R. Balasubramanian, M.A., C.L.I.S.,
Curator (Archaeology), Government Museum, Chennai-600 008.

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FOREWORD

I am extremely happy to note that my curator for Archaeology, Thiru R. Balasubrmanian, M.A., C.L.I.S., who is a very knowledgeable in the subject and industrious and enterprising in his job, has ventured to bring out this Catalouge of 'Jain Sculptures' out of this Museum's collections, with adequate details on the origin and development of Jainism in this part of India. I wish him all the best, to bring out many more new ones.

Place : Chennai

Date : 26.6.96

K. DHEENADHAYALAN, I.A.S.,

Commissioner of Museums.

PREFACE

The Government Museum has a small gallery devoted to Jainism. Though the gallery is small it has an impressive collection from Tamil Nadu, Andhrapradesh and Karnataka. I felt that there is a need to write a small book on Jain Art in the collection of the Chennai Government Museum. In the preparation of this book, I have gathered materials from the books written by Great Stalwarts like T.N. Ramachandran, C. Sivaramamurti and others. I take this opportunity to thank the Commissioner of Museums for the constant encouragement I received from him. I would like to express my gratitude to the Deputy Director of Museums for his support in bringing out this book. I express my sincere heartfelt thanks to Dr. V.N. Srinivasa Desikan and Dr. N. Sankaranarayana, my predecessors in this section who encouraged me in my work.

I thank Thiru J. R. Asokan, Curator, Design and Display, Thiru K. Rajendran, D.T.P. Operator and Thiru B. Shankar, xerox operator for excutiing the present work. My thanks are due to my sectional staff and staff of the Printing section.

Place : Chennai
Date : 26.6.96

R. Balasubramanian,
Curator, Archaeology Section.

INTRODUCTION

Jainism is one of the religions of India which has firm roots in South India. It represents an important branch of the Sramana tradition of Ancient India. According to a tradion, Mauryan Emperor Chandra Gupta had come to South India towards the end of his life along with his Guru Bhadrabahu some time 197 B.C. It was due to the great patronage given to Jainism by Pallavas of Kanchi and the Pandyas of Madurai, the religion flourished in Tamil Nadu and vestiges of which are seen in the form of sculptures. Besides Tamil Nadu, Andhra and Karnataka were also great centres of Jainism. Mahendra Verman I of the Pallava dynasty and Kun Pandiyan of Pandya dynasty were responsible for the strong roots of Jainism in South India. The most ancient vestiges of Jain religion in South India are of about 2nd Century B.C. and are mostly natural caverns. These caverns are situated in Tamil Nadu at Ramanathapuram, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli etc., Apart of these natural caverns, there are several improvised rock cut beds for the monks with raised pillow like structure for resting their heads. Some of these rock cut beds contain early Brahmi inscriptions, as for instance the famous inscription in Brahmi at Sittannavasal. These inscriptions in Brahmi are important for the study of South Indian inscriptions, Mahendravarman-I was a Jain before his conversion to Saivism by Tirunavukkarasar. The rock carvings of Tirakkal in North Arcot District and those in the cave at Armamalai are of Pallava workmanship. The sculptural art of Sittannavasal cave is of early Pallava Period (Mahendravarman). The massive and stiff nature of these sculptures indicate the beginning of the sculptural art. Early Jaina carvings were found at Chittipatti. Tirumalai in North Arcot District has interesting rock cut carvings, which according to C. Sivaramamurti can be placed to the times of later than the transitional period, the tenth century. Here there are inscriptions of Chola Parantaka-I. C. Sivaramamurti drew parallels between the Jain architecture and the Hindu architecture of the conteporary period and was of the opinion that Jain architecture followed the Hindu architecture and he sites carvings of Sittannavasal in the earliest period and also the examples at Tirumalai and Tiruparuttikundram for the later period.

JAINA ICONOGRAPHY

Jainism is accused of being atheistic but however it is not so. The numerous gods such as Tirthankaras, Yakshas, yakshis, Indras, that fill the Jaina Pantheon speak for its belief in godhood. But their gods are not creators of the universe. According to them the world is infinite and was never created at any time. If the theory of creation is accepted that will give rise to the theories of more complicated nature such as causation which may ultimately point to imperfection. Jainism attempts to raise man to godhood by "steady faith, right perception, perfect knowledge, and above all spotless life".

As in Hinduism, so also in Jainism, the gods and goddesses are classified into orders; they are mostly mortals and are distinguished by the lanchanas-cognisances. The most prominent among them are the 24 Tirthankaras or the perfected teachers.

Every Jain has to pray and bow many times everday with the following invocations-

"Om Namo Arahantanam namo siddhanam namo ayariyanam
Namo uvajjhayanam namo loye sabba sahunam".

"Salutations to the arhats, to the siddhas, to the acharyas, to the upadhyayas and to all the sadhus of the world". These five arhats, acharyas, siddhas, upadhyayas and sadhus are five supreme ones. The Om (aum) in the mantra stands for the five supreme ones-a,a,a, u and m; a stands for arhats, a stands for acharyas, a stands for asarira "disembodied" - siddhas, u stands for upadhyayas and m stands for muni i.e. saint or a sadhu. Images and sculptures containing the figure of these five supreme ones can be seen in any jain temple. Images of the 24 Tirthankaras are usually placed on highly sculptured asanas. Tirthankara images are generally found in two attitude-sitting and standing. Twenty one Tirthankaras are said to have attained nirvana in the Kayotsarga attitude i.e. standing erect as Bahubali at Sravana Belgola, while the other three did so while seated on a Padmasana. Rishabhadeva, Neminatha and Mahavira are the three who are considered to be the most important of all. Some scholars believe that Rishabhadeva is mentioned in the vedic texts, Vishnu Purana and Bhaghavata Purana.

Seated images of Tirthankaras always have the legs crossed in front, the toes of the foot resting close upon the knee of the other, the right and left hands are placed over them with the palms facing upwards. All are so alike inthis posture and hence the need felt to differentiate them by certain devices which are known as chinnhas are lanchanas. Chennai Government Museum has the Digambara images only in its collection.

LIST OF TIRTHANKARAS WITH THEIR EMBLEMS

1. Rishabhadeva	-	bull
2. Ajithanatha	-	elephant
3. Sambhavanatha	-	horse
4. Sumatinatha	-	a wheel, circle or curlew
5. Abhinandana	-	monkey
6. Padmaprabha	-	a red lotus
7. Suparsvanatha	-	a Svastika on the throne and the hood of a five headed cobra above.
8. Chandraprabha	-	crescent moon
9. Pushpadanta	-	makara or crab
10. Sitalanatha	-	wish-yielding tree
11. Sreyamsanatha	-	a deer-rhinoccrous or garuda
12. Vasupujya	-	a buffalo or bullock
13. Vimalanatha	-	a boar
14. Ananthanatha	-	a bear
15. Dharmanatha	-	a thunder bolt
16. Santinatha	-	a deer
17. Aranatha	-	a fish
18. Kunthunatha	-	a goat
19. Malinatha	-	a water pot or jar
20. Munisuvrata	-	a tortoise
21. Naminatha	-	a blue water lily
22. Neminatha	-	a conch
23. Parsvanatha	-	a snake on the throne and the hood of the seven headed cobra above.
24. Mahavira	-	a lion.

The cream of Government Museum's collection includes Padmaprabha, Pushpadanta and Suparsvanatha. But most of the representation are of Tirthankaras. Among the whole group, the sculptures acquired from Danavulapadu in the Cuddappah District are interesting. They include a set of early sculptures datable to 9th - 10th Century A.D. A huge Parsvanatha standing unfortunately mutilated beyond the knees is one among them. The size of this image is awe-inspiring. Also seated Yakshi, two chaumukhs (Four faces) and an inscribed pillar with three panels of sculptures with Mahavira seated at the top and a worshiper at the middle portion. The other set belongs to a later period which are mainly tombstones or Nishidikas. Besides these there is a bas-relief of Mahavira seated, flanked by Yakshas which was obtained from Deviagaram, is datable to the Pallava period. On the other side of the hall there is one sculpture of Ajithanatha, the second Tirthankara seated on a high simhasana in the usual pose with chaurie-bearers. The hair on the scalp is done in curly form. The Mukkodai or tripple umbrellas is present over his head. This image is obtained from Peddatumbalam, Bellary district. Then the sculpture of Padmaprabha and Suparsvanatha which are datable to the 10th Century A.D. also from Peddatumbalam.

Next ones come from Mysore State. These are inscribed in Kannada script. They are made of black granites and are polished well.

Then comes the seated huge Tirthankara from Tuticorin. This is an outstanding piece not only because of its size but also of its provenance. It show that Jainism was prevalent in Pandyan country. It has suffered a lot due to the revages of time and climate. Patches are seen in the chest, knee and other places. The face is not clear.

Next a set of Inscribed Pillars from Dharmapuri, Salem District are displayed. They are important because they bear the inscription of Nolamba Pallava King Mahendradiraja on all the four sides in old Kannada script datable to 9th Century A.D. The pillar is cubical and has lotus petals turned downwards carved at the top with a Kalasa over it all.

Then a set Mahaviras from various places are displayed. These sculptures are as a rule are stiff and very little variety is met with in the representation of the themes. Hence there is no scope for displaying the capacity of the sculpture because the

subjects dealt with are mostly Tirthankaras either seated or standing.

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Hand Book of Government Museum.

CATALOGUE OF JAIN SCULPTURES

1. Name	:	A Pilaster like one
Provinance	:	Danavalapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 175.5 cm; Br. 38 cm.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2486

2. Name	:	Parsvanatha (standing)
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 182.5 cm; Br. 80cm.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2487

3. Name	:	Torso of a Goddess
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 58.5 cm; Br. 34.5 cm
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2488

4. Name	:	Legs of a goddess seated on a lotus
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 34 cm; Br. 70 cm.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2489

5. Name	:	Seated Yakshi
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 70 cm; Br. 54 cm.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2490

6. Name	:	Head of Goddess
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 45 cm; Br. 20 cm.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2494

7. Name	:	Head of Mahavira
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 27 cm; Br. 32 cm.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2493

8. Name	:	Tirthankara
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 144 cm; Br. 128 cm.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	90-1/38.

9. Name	:	An upright stone with Kalasa carved at top
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 218 cm; Br. 39 cm.
Period	:	About 14th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2491

10. Name	:	An upright stone with Kalasa carved at top
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 51 cm; Br. 38 cm.
Period	:	About 14th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2492

11. Name	:	A Stone Pedestal on a large circular sculptured
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 51 cm; Br. 38 cm.
Period	:	About 14th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2495

12. Name	:	A rectangular parivattam or base with the head of a makara worked at the end
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 108.5 c; Br. 44.5 cm.
Period	:	About 14th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2496

13. Name	:	A Stone Pedestal (a large circular parivattam)
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 43 cm; Br. 28 cm.
Period	:	About 14th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2497
14. Name	:	A sculptured and inscribed slab
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 99 cm; Br. 48 cm.
Period	:	About 14th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2478
15. Name	:	Tirthankara chandraprabha in the upper panel
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 86 cm; Br. 27 cm.
Period	:	About 14th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2479
16. Name	:	Mahavira with inscription
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 86 cm; Br. 27 cm.
Period	:	About 14th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2480
17. Name	:	Mahavira in the upper panel with inscription at the end.
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 88 cm; Br. 43 cm.
Period	:	About 14th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2481
18. Name	:	Mahavira in the upper panel inscription at the backside
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah District
Measurement	:	Ht. 102 cm; Br. 32 cm.
Period	:	About 14th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2482

19. Name	:	Parasvantha in the upper panel and a worship per seated below. Inscription is quite daaged.
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah distrisf
Measurement	:	Ht. 83 cm; Br. 41 c
Period	:	About 14th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2483

20. Name	:	Mahavira, head broken and missing
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah district
Measurement	:	Ht. 105 cm; Br. 68 cm.
Period	:	About 14th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2484

21. Name	:	A broken pilaster with proper decoration work on the front side. The lower parts are broken and missing
Provinance	:	Danavulapadu, Cuddappah district
Measurement	:	Ht. 99 cm; Br. 37 cm.
Period	:	About 14th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2485

22. Name	:	Tirthankara (seated)
Provinance	:	Biccavolu
Measurement	:	Ht. 94 cm; Br. 70 cm.
Period	:	About 14th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	84/38.

23. Name	:	Ajitanatha
Provinance	:	Peddatumbalam, Bellary district
Measurement	:	Ht. 64 cm; Br. 59 cm.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2498

24. Name	:	Tirthankara
Provinance	:	Tindivanam, South Arcot district
Measurement	:	Ht. 77 cm; Br. 66 cm.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	76 - 1/38.

25. Name : Padmaprabha
Provinance : Peddatumbalam, Bellary district
Measurement : Ht. 59 c.m; Br. 36 c.m.
Period : About 10th Century A.D
Acc. No. : 2499

26. Name : Suparsvantha
Provinance : Peddathumbalam, Bellary district
Measurement : Ht. 57 c.m; Br. 28 c.m.
Period : About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No. : 2500

27. Name : Tirthankara
Provinance : Keelnarma, North Arcot district
Measurement : Ht. 74 c.m; Br. 51c.m.
Period : About 12th Century A.D.
Acc. No. : 2501

28. Name : Parasvantha
Provinance : Godavari district
Measurement : Ht. 89 c.m; Br. 65 c.m.
Period : About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No. : 2502

29. Name : Pillar with the inscription of a Nolamba Pallava King Mahendradhiraja inscribed on all the four sides in old Kanarese
Provinance : Dharmapuri, Salem district
Measurement : Ht. 190 c.m; Br. 38.5 c.m.
Period : About 9th Century A.D.
Acc. No. : 2508

30. Name : Pillar with the inscription of a Nolamba Pallava King Mahendradhiraja inscribed on all the four sides in old Kanarese
Provinance : Dharmapuri, Salem district
Measurement : Ht. 73 c.m; Br.40 c.m.
Period : About 9th Century A.D.
Acc. No. : 2509

31. Name	:	Tirthankara (standing) (with twenty four small seated figures of all Tirthankaras around him)
Provinance	:	Probably from Mysore
Measurement	:	Ht. 88 c.m; Br. 49 c.m.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2511
32. Name	:	Parsvanatha
Provinance	:	Not known
Measurement	:	Ht. 110 c.m; Br. 50 c.m.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2512
33. Name	:	Tirthankara
Provinance	:	Tuticorin, Tirunelveli district
Measurement	:	Ht. 164 c.m; Br. 105 c.m.
Period	:	About 9th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2515
34. Name	:	Santhinatha
Provinance	:	Probably from Mysore
Measurement	:	Ht. 74 c.m; Br. 30 c.m.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2514
35. Name	:	Mahavira
Provinance	:	Vyasarpadi, Chengalpattu district
Measurement	:	Ht. 97 c.m; Br. 49 c.m.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	1607/66
36. Name	:	Santhinatha
Provinance	:	Probably from Mysore
Measurement	:	Ht. 146 c.m; Br. 71 c.m.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2513

37. Name	:	Tirthankara
Provinance	:	Not known
Measurement	:	Ht. 117 c.m; Br. 79 c.m.
Period	:	About 10th Century
Acc. No.	:	

38. Name	:	Mahavira
Provinance	:	Villivakkam, Chengalpattu district
Measurement	:	Ht. 110 c.m; Br. 48 c.m.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2503

39. Name	:	Mahavira
Provinance	:	Hampi, Bellary district
Measurement	:	Ht. 77 c.m; Br. 54 c.m.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2504

40. Name	:	Mahavira
Provinance	:	Peddatumbalam, Bellary district
Measurement	:	Ht. 62 c.m; Br. 60 c.m.
Period	:	About 10th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2505

41. Name	:	Mahavira
Provinance	:	Not known
Measurement	:	Ht. 93 c.m; Br. 54 c.m.
Period	:	About 11th Century A.D.
Acc. No.	:	2506

42. Name	:	Mahavira
Provinance	:	Sakkiramanallur, North Arcot district
Measurement	:	Ht. 106 c.m; Br. 57 c.m.
Period	:	About 11th Century A. D.
Acc. No.	:	2507

43. Name : Mahavira
Provinance : Not known
Measurement : Ht. 106 c.m; Br. 58 c.m.
Period : About 11th Century A.D.
Acc. No. : 1981/76

44. Name : Tirthankara
Provinance : Not known
Measurement : Ht. 78 c.m; Br. 57 c.m.
Period : About 15th Century A.D.
Acc. No. : 1375/60

45. Name : Mahavira
Provinance : Madras (Chennai)
Measurement : Ht. 121 c.m; Br. 61 c.m.
Period : About 15th Century A.D.
Acc. No. : 1830/71

46. Name : Mahavira
Provinance : Tanjavur
Measurement : Ht. 100 c.m; Br. 60 c.m.
Period : About 15th Century A.D.

47. Name : Mahavira
Provinance : Valatottam, Chengalput district
Measurement : Ht. 93 c.m; Br. 57 c.m.
Period : About 16th Century A.D.
Acc. No. : 1514/63

48. Name : Tirthankara
Provinance : North Arcot district
Measurement : Ht. 112 c.m; Br. 50 c.m.
Period : About 12 th Century A.D.

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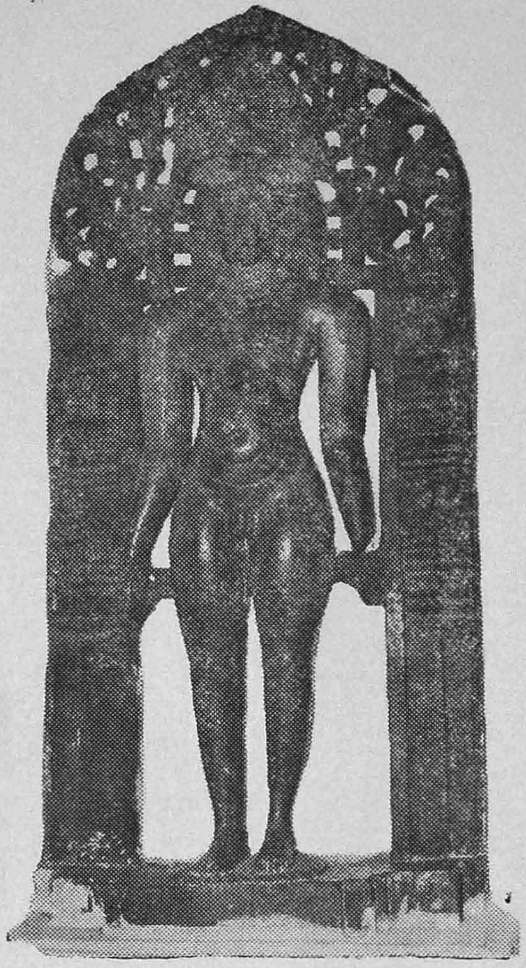
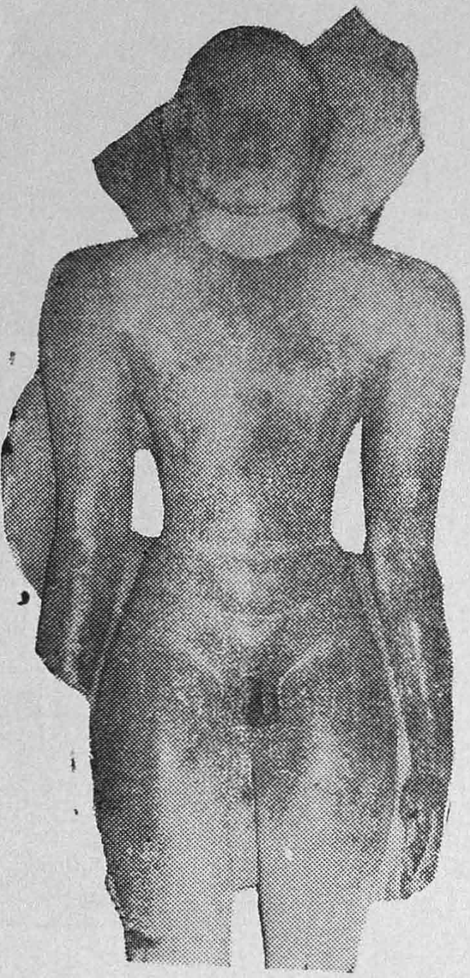
TIRTHANKARA
Tindivanam South Arcot Dt.,
About 10th C A.D.



SANTHINATHA
Karnataka About 10th C A.D.

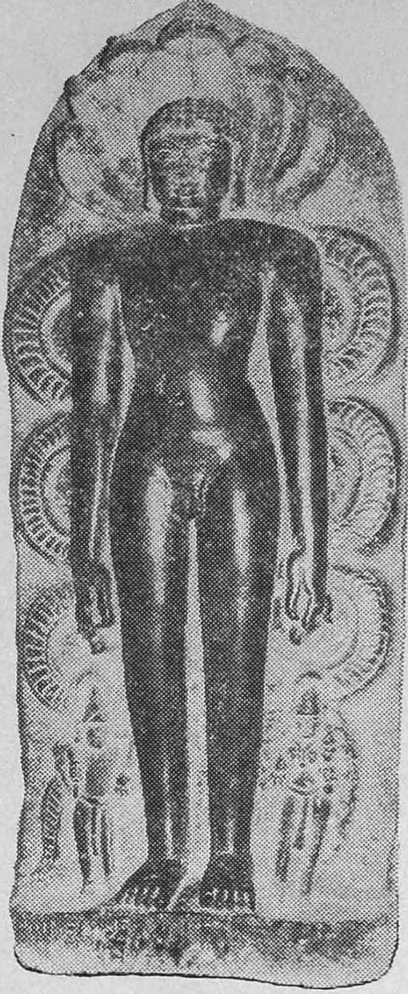
TIRTHANKARA
Tuticorin Tirunelveli Dt.,
About 9th Century A.D.

SCULPTURED AND
INSCRIBED PILLAR
Danavulapadu
About 10th C A.D.



PARSVANATHA
Danavulapadu, Cuddappah Dt.
About 10th C A.D.

MAHAVIRA
Vyasarpadi, About 10th C A.D.



PARSVANATHA
Godavari Dt. About 12th C A.D.

TIRTHANKARA
Biccavolu, About 9th C A. D.

MAHAVIRA
Deviagaram
South Arcot Dt. About 10th C A.D.

SANTINATHA
Probably From Mysore, About 10th C A.D.